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## 'Reckless folly' to have homes without the proper healthcare

By Eva Astreimidou

PLANS for a new hospital near Basingstoke are set to be ruled out calling into question the large-scale house building plans for the area.

The borough's MP Maria Miller has joined Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council in criticising the decision to overturn proposals put in place six years ago for a new Critical Treatment Hospital to meet the demands of a growing population.

A review into health care changes, which deemed the plans 'are not an option for the foreseeable future' due to financial difficulties, will be discussed at a meeting with local health bodies today.

The recommended decision on the new hospital comes after a six-month review by clinical commissioning groups who have been looking at a more community-based model of care.

Mrs Miller said: "Basingstoke's Local Plan is clear, we need to see expanded local facilities in place before new homes are built."

"The Basingstoke Local Plan runs until 2029 and at the moment we have no agreed NHS plan of action that covers this period. If the NHS is now backing away from supporting a CTH they need to come up with an alternative plan for Basingstoke fast."

"Basingstoke has one of the highest levels of house building in the country. Primary and acute care is already under huge pressure."

She said she had an urgent meeting

with Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to ensure the clinical commissioning group comes up with a 'clear plan for delivering the healthcare the growing population needs' in the next year.

Mrs Miller confirmed there would be a meeting in March with the Secretary of State to hear an alternative and detailed plan from NHS England.

Cllr Clive Sanders, leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council said it would be 'reckless folly' to build thousands of new homes 'without ensuring people have proper access to decent healthcare'.

He added: "We need the NHS to step up and play their part now or solving our housing shortage will not happen."

Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are naturally disappointed [with] the recommendation."

"The joint work recognised that this proposal would improve quality and accessibility for our patients, but has concluded that it is not affordable with the current ambitious assumptions around spending less on hospital services."

Dr Nick Broughton, chief executive of Southern Health NHS Trust, said: "Most people prefer to be in their own homes rather than hospital, so we welcome the focus from our partners on increased community care and support."

"We know earlier support and care at home can avoid the need for hospital visits, which is better for patients and eases the pressure on busy hospitals."



From left, George Vidler, (Michael); Joe Hubbard Bateman, (John); Kit Malthouse MP; Tadley Town Council chairman Jo Page; Cllr David Leeks and Jenny Huxley-Golden (Wendy) switch on the lights

### From Neverland to Tadley for panto stars

Peter Pan and Wendy started the countdown to Christmas in front of hundreds of families in Tadley. The talented young cast of The Anvil's Christmas pantomime Peter Pan helped switch on the Christmas lights on Friday.

Wendy, played by Jenny Huxley-Golden, John and Michael Darling, played by 14-year-old Joe Hubbard Bateman and eight-year old George Vidler, were all there to welcome the festive season. The evening included a Christmas

market in the Ambrose Allen Centre, singing from the children of Burnham Copse School, and the Tadley Band and the Tadley and Hurst Singers performing a selection of carols. The pantomime runs from December 14 to January 7.

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# 'Budget did not address the issues faced in our borough'

By Eva Astreinidou

OPINION was split as Basingstoke's politicians reacted to last week's budget.

The measures announced on Wednesday last week promise to abolish stamp duty for first-time buyers on properties up to £300,000, improve tax rates for businesses, increase house building and pump more funds into the technology sectors.

Basingstoke's MP Maria Miller welcomed the announcement, while Labour and Lib Dem politicians said the new proposals 'do nothing' to address issues that people in the area face.

Speaking after the announcement last Wednesday, Mrs Miller said: "This is

a good budget for Basingstoke - investing for the long-term while supporting families and businesses now."

She said: "[It supports] local families by increasing the National Living Wage by above inflation, cutting income tax by raising the personal allowance, freezing fuel duty for the eighth year and investing to support our NHS."

Under the new plans, no stamp duty will be paid on the first £300,000 for properties costing up to £500,000.

Mrs Miller added: "Basingstoke residents often raise with me availability of affordable housing for first time buyers. This announcement will see building of the new homes that our young people need."

But Basingstoke and Deane Lib Dem leader Gavin James said house prices will still be 'out of reach' for young people in the area.

He said: "I am really angry and so should everybody in Basingstoke be."

"Reductions in stamp duty for first-time buyers, shows how little the Tories understand the housing market in areas like Basingstoke and Deane. Cutting the tax burden on something you can't afford anyway won't help many people. The reality is this budget is not about people."

Basingstoke and Deane Labour leader Paul Harvey said: "The budget did nothing to address the issues people, public services and businesses

in Basingstoke face.

"The Chancellor did nothing to tackle the fall in living standards, the greatest it has been for over 60 years. Inflation continues to outstrip wages. People are losing out and facing huge pressure just to get by."

"Basingstoke deserves a pay rise. Basingstoke's hospital and schools need investment to avert the crisis they are facing. Basingstoke's businesses need to see investment that secures real economic growth and jobs. Basingstoke has lost too many jobs with Motorola, SSE, Shire, and Thales all leaving town."

"We believe Basingstoke, our town and borough has such potential."

## On-call fire recruits put through their paces

THE latest recruits for Hampshire's fire and rescue teams have started their training following the largest ever spike in on-call trainees.

The 26 new team members began their eight-day course last week.

Previous intakes have on average had eight trainees but the spike in applications and record recruitment level comes after a high-profile six-month campaign.

The on-call trainees are learning ladder, hose and fire ground techniques and will do further training to add to their skills on a regular basis as well as attending weekly drill nights.

Academy station manager Jason Boh said: "These dedicated life-savers fit being a

firefighter in between other jobs and family commitments and come from all walks of life.

"These people are part of the fabric that holds every fire service in the country together."

The three women and 23 men will be providing vital cover across the county in 16 stations in areas including Basingstoke.

New trainee and fashion graduate Jo Gamblin, 40, from Droxford, decided to take the step after being a stay at home mum for the last 12 years.

She said: "I had never considered being a firefighter before."

"My children are proud of my new job and the on-call system works around the hours you can do."

"I would urge other ladies to look at the prospect of being a firefighter."



The recruits practise drills with ladders as part of their training

## News Bites

### Assaulted in flat

A MAN and woman were assaulted when three men forced their way into a flat in Basingstoke.

The three men, two of whom had their faces covered, forced their way into the property in Sinclair Drive and demanded money.

A 38-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man were assaulted in the incident which happened on November 23 at around 6.30pm. The attackers left empty-handed.

The man who did not have his face covered was described by the victims as of Asian appearance, aged in his thirties, is 6ft 1ins tall, of muscular build, with a neat black beard. He is described as wearing a black baseball cap and black clothing.

All three men wore dark clothing and were last seen running towards the train station.

If you can help, contact 101.

### Attacked by trio

A 25-year-old man was left with a broken hand and a fractured eye socket after he was attacked by three men in a car park.

The victim said he was assaulted by three men near the kebab van in Castons Yard car park, Basingstoke at 3.20am on November 18.

The victim described the first man as white, aged in his mid to late twenties, 6ft tall and of average build, with shoulder-length brown hair.

The second man is mixed race, aged in his mid to late twenties, with neck-length black dreadlocks, under 6ft tall and of average build.

The third man is white, aged in his mid to late twenties, under 6ft tall and of average build, with short brown hair.

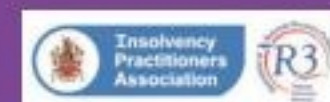
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# Inspirational businesses shine

By Eva Astreimidou

A GLITTERING awards night in Basingstoke proved hard work really does pay off.

Local businesses were recognised for their innovation and success at the Inspire 17 Awards at Hampshire Court Hotel, Chineham, last week.

The awards had a record-breaking number of entries from all over North Hampshire, with Basingstoke businesses collecting major awards.

Ahead of the night, judges toured business premises and learned all about the nominated parties before making a decision on the most deserving winners.

Felicity Edwards, managing director of Destination Basingstoke, which organises the event, said: "It has been a fantastic celebration of our business community, the judges really enjoyed learning about the journey that some of our most successful businesses have taken to become award winners. It demonstrates very clearly that North Hampshire is a great place for business to thrive."

Connective Chiropractic, based at Winchester Road, was one of the big winners of the night, recognised with the award for new business of the year.

The business was praised for its 'sound and detailed' business planning.

Basingstoke Sports Trust won the business and community award for its 'impressive' programme of projects that make sport and healthy living



The award winners celebrate after being honoured for their innovation and success at the Inspire 17 awards

regimes 'accessible to all'.

L. Hunt and Sons, a family haulage and storage company, was awarded the family business of the year, recognising its ability to manage 'complex family relations' and build a successful and 'truly inspiring' business.

Petra Jewellery, based at the Viables craft centre, was also recognised

for its success in the service excellence category, recognising its 'real personal touch' that makes customers want to come back.

Vuepoint solutions, a software company, won the award for innovation of the year for 'revolutionising the market'.

Hook-based IWaste won the acco-

lade for small business of the year, while Driven International was recognised as the international business of the year.

Former England rugby player and TV pundit David Flatman helped emcee the ceremony, as a supporter of Heartburn Cancer UK, the charity partner for the evening.

## News Bites

### Man to face trial over attempted rape

A 50-year-old man has been charged with the attempted rape of a woman in Basingstoke.

Gary Carlisle, from South Ham Road, appeared before Basingstoke magistrates on Monday.

He has been remanded in custody to appear next at Winchester Crown Court on January 3.

This follows an investigation into a serious sexual assault that happened in the car park of The Rising Sun pub in Chapel Hill between 2am and 3am on November 19.

Detective Inspector Penny Murray from the Amberstone Team said: "Such crimes are rare in the town but when they do occur they are always thoroughly investigated."

### Bridge fall suicide

A WOMAN with a history of mental health issues fell to her death from a bridge, an inquest has heard.

Domanique Turner, 32, was found seriously injured under a footbridge over the A33, between Lillymill Chine and Great Binfields Road, at around 10.30pm on September 21.

She was pronounced dead at 11.34pm, after attempts to resuscitate her by police and ambulance crews.

An inquest into her death on November 22 heard how Ms Turner, who had a history of mental health issues and was diagnosed with split-personality disorder, was struggling at the time.

North East Hampshire coroner Andrew Bradley delivered a verdict of suicide.

## Affordable homes plan for former garages

WORK has started on a project that will transform former garages in Basingstoke town centre into new affordable homes.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has teamed up with Sovereign Housing Association to combine their land to build 12 homes at the site in May Street, Brookvale by summer 2018.

The borough council had agreed to transfer its land surrounding the garages at the corner of Lower Brook Street and May Street to

the housing association in June to facilitate the development after planning permission was granted in March.

Luke Bingham, divisional director at Sovereign said: "We're really pleased to be working with the borough council on this exciting development in the centre of the town. Only by working together has this development been possible."

"I'm looking forward to seeing the transformation take place and welcoming residents into their new

homes next year."

Once completed the site will consist of eight two-bedroom homes and four one-bedroom flats, with four of those being affordable homes.

BDBC deputy leader councillor Terri Reid said: "I am delighted that by working together with Sovereign we are able to provide more affordable homes in the town centre, including homes to help people get the first step on the property ladder."

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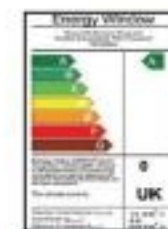
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# Flt Sgt's 'legacy will stay at RAF Odiham'

By Eva Astreinidou

A FINAL tribute was paid to Flight Sergeant Anna Irwin who tragically lost her battle with cancer last month.

Station personnel from RAF Odiham gathered to pay their respects before the 37-year-old took her final flight home to Stafford on Monday, November 20.

A congregation of family and friends were joined by service personnel from throughout FS Irwin's career, with many dressed in bright colours or in football strips as were her wishes.

A firing party gave a 12-gun salute followed by a flyover by two RAF Odiham Chinooks, who carried out a 'missing man' formation over the Hangar, before FS Irwin was flown to Staffordshire for a ceremony at MoD Stafford.

Event coordinator and fellow FS Liz Wood said her friend, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was 'truly amazing'.

She said: "Her smile was infectious and everyone who had the honour to meet her will say the same. Her legacy will stay with us all at Odiham forever."

Having previously served with the territorial army in Iraq, FS Irwin decided that being a Chinook crewman was the job for her.

She followed her dream by joining the RAF and was posted to 18 (B) Sqn at RAF Odiham in 2007.

During her time with the squadron she deployed to Afghanistan on numerous occasions.

In 2013 she was awarded Airman of the Year at the Sun Millies awards for her courage under fire.

She was diagnosed with Stage 4



Colleagues pay their respects to Flight Sergeant Anna Irwin, inset Pictures: Sgt Dave Rose and Cpl Rob Travis RAF Odiham

lung cancer in April 2016 and used this as an opportunity to begin fundraising for cancer charities including the Royal Marsden, where she was receiving treatment and Teenage Cancer Trust.

Throughout the last 18 months of her life she completed several challenges ranging from climbing Ben Nevis, skydiving from a Chinook and even a half-iron man in Barcelona. To date, her fundraising has surpassed £70,000.

Sadly, FS Irwin lost her battle just two weeks before a fundraising party to end the year of events on October 27 at RAF Odiham.

Her wish that the 1940s-themed hangar party went ahead and that all proceeds go to St Michael's Hospice Basingstoke, who looked after her during her final weeks.

RAF Odiham personnel and many others pulled together to organise the event in just six weeks, raising a total of £24,000.

## Sheep found dead after worrying

SIXTEEN sheep are believed to have died from shock after a dog came on to their field.

Police are urging pet owners to keep control of their dogs after a farmer found the bodies of the sheep in the Odiham area on the morning of November 7.

While none of the sheep had visible injuries, it is believed a dog had got on to the field and the animals died due to the stress caused.

PC Vincent Lane, from Hampshire police's country watch team, said: "I would like to remind dog

owners of the importance of being in full control of their dog when in the countryside and around livestock and wild animals.

"Owners often voice surprise when their dog chases animals, but this is an innate part of a dog's behaviour and they will instinctively chase and injure animals given the chance.

"Dogs worrying livestock is a criminal offence.

"In such incidents, livestock can be seriously injured or killed. It is also common for other animals

witnessing this to die from shock.

"Dog owners should be aware that in such instances, the owner/person in control of the dog can be prosecuted, and the dog can be shot by the farmer to end an attack."

Police are advising dog owners to keep their dog on a lead when in a field with livestock and to keep the dog in sight at all times even if there are no livestock in the field.

If you have any information about this incident or sheep worrying, call 101.

## Stay safe from fraud this Christmas

POLICE are urging Christmas shoppers to watch out and stay safe from fraud.

Hampshire police shared important advice to help prevent fraud after 541 reports of online fraud between 2016 and 2017.

Police released the tips ahead of Black Friday and Christmas to help people avoid falling victim to such fraud, including using strong passwords and making sure software and apps are updated regularly.

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner said: "I would urge everyone to follow the advice and not get conned this Christmas."

Online shoppers are also reminded to look out for a padlock and HTTPS in the browser when they're submitting card or personal information online.

Assistant Chief Constable Ben Snuggs said: "Most of us increasingly lead many aspects of our lives online. However, we sadly

see many examples where people are tricked, manipulated and pressured into something that can have significant adverse financial or personal consequences."

Nationally, Action Fraud estimated in 2015 around £10million was lost to fraudsters across the UK while people were shopping online for Christmas presents.

For more information, visit <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/stay-safer-online>.

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# Sawn-off shotguns and WWI pistol among guns handed in

By Eva Astreinidou

SEVERAL hundred firearms, including First World War revolvers and a gun made to look like a walking stick, have been handed into police stations across Hampshire.

Police officers urged people in Hampshire who may have illegally held guns or ammunition they don't use to drop them off as part of a two-week campaign.

The firearms and ammunition surrender launched on November 13 urged people to take the opportunity

to hand in the items so they could be disposed of safely and not fall into the hands of criminals.

During that fortnight 351 firearms and 95 units of ammunition were recovered.

Chief Inspector Emma Baillie, head of armed response for Hampshire and Thames Valley, said: "We are very pleased that so many people took the opportunity to take part in this initiative and the number of firearms recovered certainly proves how valuable such a surrender is."

"Gun crime is low in Hampshire and

the Isle of Wight and has not seen a rise other force areas have, however we cannot be complacent and we will continue to do all we can to make our communities safer."

Firearms handed in across Hampshire included a number of working illegally held self-loading pistols and working revolvers from the First World War, including two that were used in the Battle of the Somme.

Other interesting firearms included a gun made to look like a walking stick handed in on the Isle of Wight and another made to look like a pen.

A number of illegally held shotguns, including a sawn off shotgun, a revolver made in 1893, rifles, air pistols as well as imitation firearms and BB guns were also handed in.

Police forces across the county partnered up with the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) to carry out the two-week surrender.

Those surrendering firearms did not face prosecution for the illegal possession. But police stressed this was not an amnesty and that they will investigate should there be a link to a crime.

## Drones worth £20,000 stolen on two nights

THIEVES made off with £20,000 worth of drones after breaking into a Build Your Own Drone store.

Police are appealing for information following two incidents at the business in Bramley on November 12 and 16.

The latest incident happened just after 10.10pm at an industrial unit in Campbell Court.

The offenders forced entry via the main door of the company's unit, called Build Your Own Drone.

Once inside, they stole a number of drones.

In an incident just four days earlier, offenders forced entry to the same unit at around 9.20pm and made off with a number of drones.

The combined estimated value of property stolen is in excess of £20,000.

A witness saw an Audi and a 4x4 Mitsubishi travelling in convoy in the direction of Bramley train station shortly after the latest incident.

A second witness also said they saw a larger saloon type white Audi, with four men inside, outside the unit. One of the men was described as black, tall and wearing a silver hood.

Police staff investigator, Karen Slade, said: "The items stolen are worth a lot of money and extremely popular, especially with Christmas around the corner. It is likely they'll be offered for sale; if you are offered any items for sale that you think could be stolen, please contact us."

If you can help, call 101.

## Warm welcome at new-look Iceland

ICELAND is back in business in Basingstoke town centre after a £500,000 makeover.

Mayor Paul Frankum cut the ribbon to mark the re-opening of the store which boasts a new layout in Festival Place last week.

The new look of the store includes revamped frontage, digital signage, LED lighting, improved in-store navigation as well as new checkouts and new product ranges.

This comes as more than £2 million is being invested in refitting Iceland shops across Hampshire.

Neil Hayes, Iceland's merchandising and format development direc-

tor, said: "Each of our refitted stores opened to date has created a real buzz, winning praise from our regular customers and attracting new shoppers who had never thought of trying Iceland before."

"Doing work on this scale is only possible if we close the store for a time and I thank all our customers in Basingstoke for their patience while the project has been completed."

"I am sure they will feel it has been worth it when they experience the new store, which has the same friendly faces to serve them, all the products they love plus some exciting new additions."



Mayor Paul Frankum cuts the ribbon to open the new-look store in Festival Place

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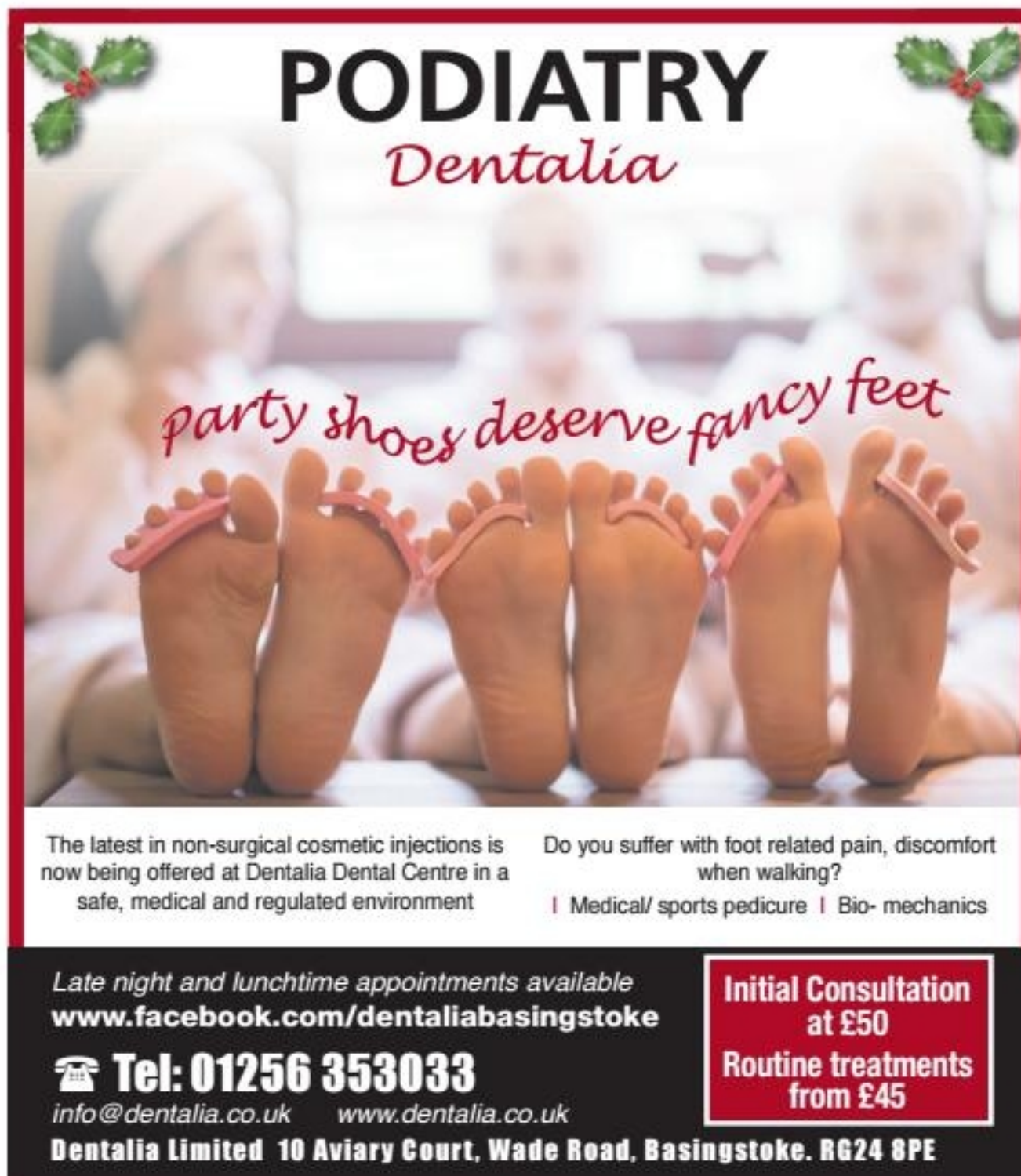
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The performers with their certificates from the Deane and London Rotary clubs

## Young musicians hit competition high notes

**TALENTED** young performers competed in an annual music event bidding for a place in the next round of a national contest.

The musicians took part in a preliminary round of the annual Rotary young musicians competition last month ahead of a national event in Bournemouth in February.

Organised by the three local Rotary clubs, including Basing-

stoke, the preliminary event was held in the Evelyn Glennie room at Queen Mary's College and attracted 15 entries.

Three age groups competed in instrumental and vocal contests to showcase their musical talent.

Tristan Sutton, for the instrumental category, and Abigail Higgs, for vocal, came out top of the under-11 age group.

Jessica Gill, in the instrumental category and Tom Hejdeman, for vocal in the 11-16 age group, as well as Dmitri Bowgen (instrumental) in the 17/18 age group also topped their categories.

All the competitors received certificates, presented by the presidents of the Deane and London Rotary clubs, as well as individual written feedback from the judges.

## Hospital worker struck off over 'incompetence'

By Eva Astreinidou

**AN** engineer working at Basingstoke Hospital has been struck off due to a "lack of competence".

Dudu Miah was handed the verdict at a tribunal earlier this month over allegations he had failed to deliver a new service at the facility's cancer services unit.

Mr Miah was working as a clinical scientist for the Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust between November 4, 2013 and June 25, 2014.

During this time, he was tasked with delivering a radiotherapy service that included a linear accelerator (LINAC) for the new radiotherapy department.

Allegations were made against Mr Miah that he acted 'dishonestly' and had not followed proce-

cedure in carrying out his responsibility to deliver the service and ensure staff received the training required.

In a report from the conduct hearing, the panel noted that Mr Miah struggled with questions posed to him.

The report added that he claimed he had informal and undocumented meetings with his line manager, where he had disclosed there were problems with the progress of the LINAC, including staff and technical difficulties.

He denied he had been dishonest or would be dishonest in any way. But many witnesses disputed that, with one of them saying Mr Miah had been given opportunities and invited to investigatory interviews to discuss the progress of the project.

The service was due to be completed and ready to start radiotherapy services for patients on April 25, 2014.

Mr Miah said he did not realise the "go live" date was for the commencement of treatment of patients, and thought it was for computer scanning only.

In passing the decision for Mr Miah to be struck off from the medical register, the panel added: "These are serious failures to act professionally and to protect service users and put their interests first."

"There is also a need to make a finding of impairment on public grounds in this case to protect service users, to declare and uphold proper standards of conduct in the profession, and to maintain public confidence in the profession."

## MP teaches pupils about Parliament

**BASINGSTOKE'S** MP visited a primary school to speak to students during Parliament Week.

Maria Miller paid a visit to Marnel Junior School in Popley last week to speak at a school assembly about the role and work of an MP.

The school had invited her as part of their various activities to support Parliament Week 2017, which ran from November 13 to 19.

Children at the school also took part in a wide range of activities throughout the week, designed to develop their awareness of Parliament's role and widen their knowledge.

After her talk, Mrs Miller answered questions from the children on a wide range of issues relating to Parliament and her own experiences and priorities.

She said: "It was wonderful to hear about the different activities



Maria Miller MP spoke to youngsters at Marnel Junior School during Parliament Week

that Marnel Junior pupils have been taking part in as part of Parliament Week and they had some great questions for me.

"This is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the role of the

UK Parliament in our democracy, particularly among young people. The staff at Marnel Junior School had clearly worked very hard to engage the children in a wide range of events and activities."



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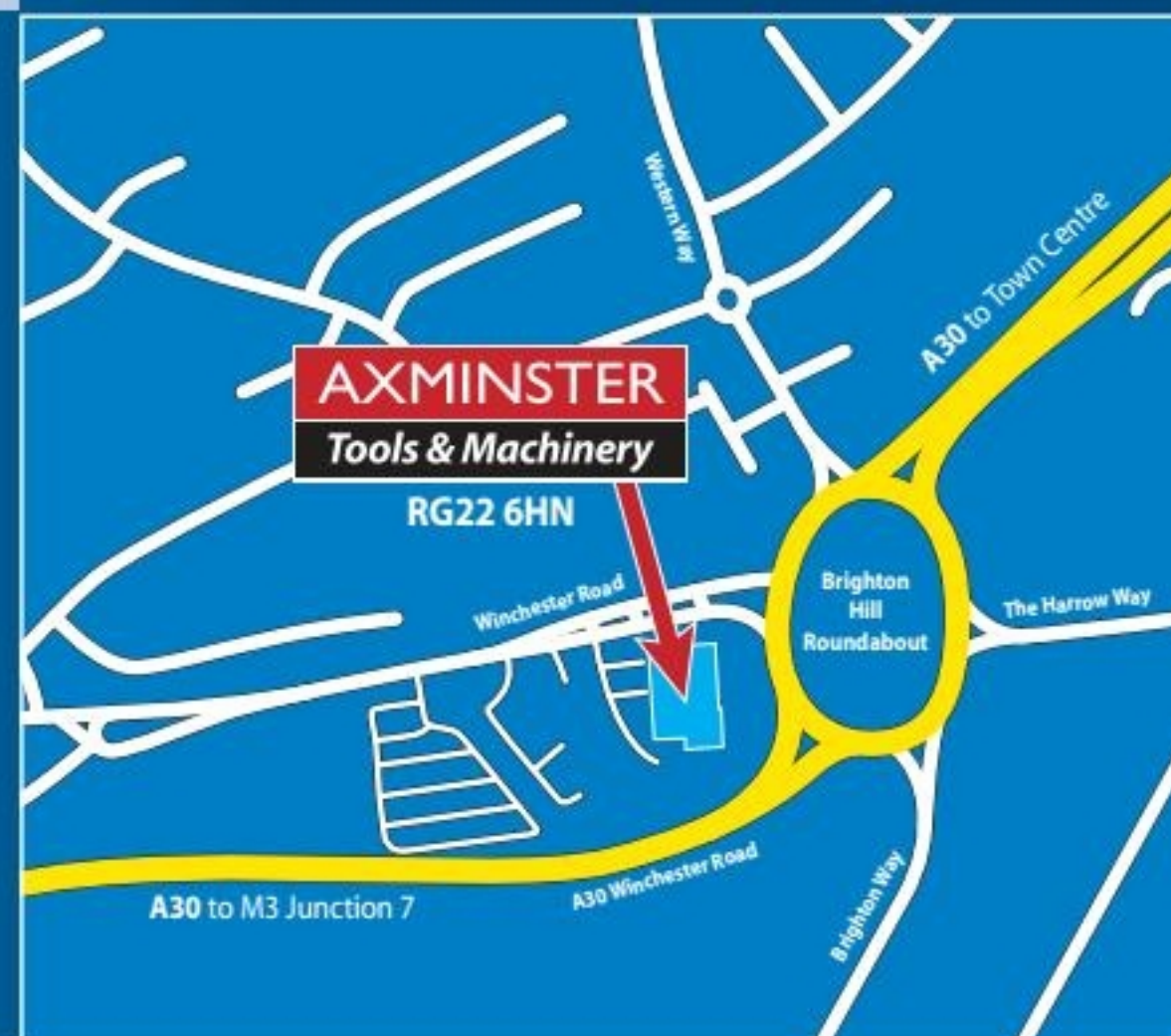
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# Cyclists' 965-mile trek raises £60k

By Eva Astreinidou

A CANCER survivor led a group of cyclists from one end of Britain to the other to help raise £60,000 for charity.

The riders handed the generous cheque in last week after taking on the gruelling challenge for Ark Cancer Charity, setting off for the nine-day 965-mile journey from Land's End to John O'Groats in May.

Team leader Jonathan Hobby, 51, who underwent treatment for lymphoma last year, was one of seven cyclists to complete the whole ride.

It was only last September the father-of-four, who is a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT), was diagnosed with cancer.

He said: "Thanks to the skill and care of the team at Basingstoke Hospital, I was well enough to return to work, and I have been able to get back

on my bike, and complete this challenge.

"The thought of taking on [the bike ride] gave me something to look forward to and I am delighted that I and the other riders have achieved what we set out to do."

Looking back on the epic journey, Jonathan said: "It was an amazing experience and we all have some amazing memories. I am delighted to have completed this journey with such a great group of people. We are all grateful to everyone who sponsored us and supported the charity."

He added he and fellow riders – Kevin Conn, Paul Hart, Graham Hazell, Rob Hewetson, Jolyon Hobby, Chris Hocking, David Poole, Chris Sayer, Tim Syder, Peter Chapman, Mark Keane, Myles Gascoyne and Charlie Taylor – are also grateful to the support team of volunteers who helped them on the journey.



Some of the Ark Cyclists and sponsors present the cheque to Ark Cancer Centre Charity trustee Merv Rees (kneeling left). Picture: Sarah Gaunt Photography.

The riders are supporting Ark Cancer Centre Charity's campaign to raise £5million towards building a local cancer treatment centre for people in the area.

With all the money now in, some of the riders and sponsors marked hitting the £60,000 milestone by handing over a cheque to Ark Cancer Centre Charity trustee Merv Rees.



## All in a day's work...

BASINGSTOKE'S council staff took snapshots of their day to celebrate the work of local government.

Park operations teams, a dog warden and street cleaners were just some of the staff who marked the day by taking photos of their daily tasks last week and sharing them on social media with the hashtag Our Day.

The aim of the day, marked across the country, was to raise awareness of the duties that local councils carry out during a typical day to 'keep communities running'.

The operations team braved the cold last week to clear up the lake at

Eastrop Park, which boasts a Green Flag award.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's housing team hosted a forum to discuss homelessness.

The same day, the council's dog warden helped return Kara the two year-old Ponski to her home after she wandered off earlier in the week.

Elsewhere, operations team members placed LoveBasingstoke signs around the town centre as part of a campaign to promote local pride, while refuse collectors and street sweepers also posted pictures of themselves hard at work.

## News Bites

### Revised bin dates

THERE are revised bin collection dates for the Christmas and New Year period.

Normal date:	Revised date:
Monday 25	Wednesday 27
Tuesday 26	Thursday 28
Wednesday 27	Friday 29
Thursday 28	Saturday 30
Friday 29	Tuesday 2
Monday 1	Wednesday 3
Tuesday 2	Thursday 4
Wednesday 3	Friday 5
Thursday 4	Saturday 6
Friday 5	Monday 8
Monday 8	Tuesday 9
Tuesday 9	Wednesday 10
Wednesday 10	Thursday 11
Thursday 11	Friday 12
Friday 12	Saturday 13

Collections should return to normal from January 15 unless adverse weather affects bin rounds.

### Hospice's star service

ST Michael's Hospice is inviting people to join a unique remembrance service in memory of their loved ones.

The event on Sunday will feature the Light up a Life campaign, which allows those who wish to remember loved ones the opportunity to dedicate a 'star' in their memory.

The hospice hopes to attract as many as possible to reach its target of £30,000. There will be performances from the Basingstoke Silver Band, the Ooh Mama ladies choir and Viables Voices Choir.

Go to [stmichaelshospice.org.uk](http://stmichaelshospice.org.uk) or call 01256 848 848 for more details.

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# New homes in Basingstoke inspired by local history now open to visitors



**Beckets Rise, a new collection of new homes in Basingstoke named in homage to the local church in Worting which is dedicated to Thomas Becket, is now open to visitors.**

Having launched earlier this year, interested buyers eager to secure one of the 42 private homes off plan were invited to find out more at Redrow Homes' nearby development in Bracknell, The Quarters.

Now, with the highly anticipated sales office open at Beckets Rise, purchasers and househunters will be able to access the site for the first time to see for themselves how the development is taking shape.

Beckets Rise features a selection of two bedroom terrace, and three and four-bedroom detached homes with modern, bright, open-plan interiors fitted to the highest specifications. The Eversley, The Winchfield and The Holybourne are three of the homes making up the 42 on the development, all of which feature in Redrow's Heritage Collection. Two new show homes, the four bedroom Highclere and the three bedroom Lyndhurst will be opening in the New Year.

Mark Vanson, Sales Director at Redrow (Southern Counties), said: "The homes at Beckets Rise have attracted a lot of interest with many househunters committing to their new home off plan. Now with our sales centre open and a number of show homes to follow, we anticipate interest will only grow. Buyers of all shapes and sizes have been attracted to the development including first time buyers, young professionals, small and large families, partly due to the great range of homes available but also because of the diverse selection of local amenities and facilities available. Basingstoke is also very well connected by road and rail, with the M3 nearby and train times into London taking under 50 minutes."

As an award-winning national housebuilder, Redrow Homes is focused on creating a better way for people to live.



Beautiful homes and new communities that deliver high-quality lifestyles are at the heart of every design. The homes at Beckets Rise are based on Redrow's ever popular Heritage Collection and are designed to provide modern living, taking into consideration both the dynamics of family life and the desire for a home with real curb appeal.

And it's not just new homes that Redrow is investing in in Basingstoke. The Southern Counties head office is now based in Faraday Office Park, signaling the housebuilders commitment to the area and employment opportunities for local people.

Prices at Beckets Rise currently start at £304,950. To find out more call 01256 442819, visit the sales office or go online: [www.redrow.co.uk/beckets](http://www.redrow.co.uk/beckets)

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# ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

## 'Twas the night before Christmas...

Why don't mice get Christmas presents? That's the question Eddie is pondering as he goes on a magical quest on Christmas Eve in the seasonal show at The Haymarket from December 8 to 10. See inside for more

Picture: Stuart Slavicky 2007



## Be a **WINNER** with our weekly competitions page

Great prizes and easy to enter

THIS WEEK: WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO SEE PETER PAN AT THE ANVIL!





# ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

## What's stirring in your house?

By Josh Cox

IT'S beginning to look a lot like Christmas as Big Wooden Horse Theatre Group bring their version of *The Night Before Christmas* to town.

It's Christmas Eve, as her family celebrate downstairs, Emily is in her bedroom, far too excited to even think about sleeping. She stares out of the window, hugs her teddy and waits excitedly for the morning.

Meanwhile, in the corner, a little mouse called Eddie can't understand why only humans get presents. So he sets off in search of Father Christmas to find out for himself.

Along the way, he dodges the family cat, gets directions from a cowardly robot and is given some unexpected advice from the magical fairy on top of the tree.

Will Eddie get an answer? Will Emily get her wish? And what is that funny-shaped present sitting under the tree?

*The Night Before Christmas* is perfect for children aged two to seven

years and is a great introduction to theatre for pre-schoolers and infant school children.

Big Wooden Horse specialise in presenting high quality theatre to children. They believe young people deserve the highest quality of writing, performance and production tailored to be easily understood by young minds.

The Stage has dubbed the Big Wooden Horse's production as "a fine piece of theatre".

Written by Adam Bampton-Smith, *The Night Before Christmas* comes to The Haymarket from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 December, showing at various times.

Tickets for *The Night Before Christmas* are priced £13 which includes a £2 booking fee. For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244, or visit their website [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk).

There will also be a specially adapted performance for those on the autistic spectrum and with other disabilities on Saturday 9 December at 4pm.

Eddie the mouse meets up with the cowardly robot  
Picture: Stuart Slavicky



### Step into the 60s

**MUSIC:** Join the covers band Get Ready for a night of 60's classics, Motown and Mod anthems at The Hop Poles in Alton.

The group will capture the cool style of the Sixties and audiences are advised to bring their dancing shoes along on December 9.

The free gig starts are 9pm.

### Don't be blue...

**MUSIC:** Four-piece band Bluehayz will be playing a free gig at The Kestrel in Basingstoke on Saturday.

The band have been gigging together since 2010, covering songs from Snow Patrol, Radiohead, Rolling Stones, Chris Rea, The Killers, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and more.

### Musical Wizzard

**MUSIC:** Roy Wood Rock & Roll Band will be coming to The Anvil on Tuesday.

Recently inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in New York, Roy Wood is known across the world as a founder of The Move, ELO, and Wizzard.

Celebrate the holiday season with a man who helped shape the music of Christmas. Tickets cost £32

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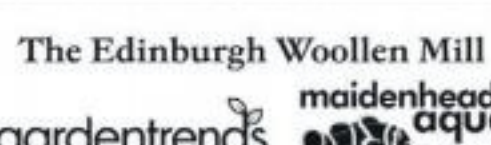


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# ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

## Symphony of sounds to start 2018

By Josh Cox

START the new year with the sounds of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

The renowned musicians will be heading to Basingstoke to deliver a concert featuring works by Mozart and Dvorak.

Mozart's Symphony no 35 contains warm, slow movements and gracious minuets capped by a brilliant 'perpetual motion' finale.

That's followed by two engaging clarinet concertos by a father and son who developed the orchestra in Mannheim into a powerhouse which was renowned all over Europe. They are played by the Principal Clarinet of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Andreas Ottensamer.

A true child genius he began playing the piano at the age of four and by 10 was studying the cello at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, then changed to the clarinet in 2003.

To conclude the concert is Dvorak's Symphony no 5, with many memorable melodies in its four movements.

The director of the performance will be Matthew Halls, one of Britain's most exciting young conductors as well as a leading keyboard player.

He studied music at Oxford University where he was organ scholar and later assistant organist at New College. He has gone on to lead a wide range



of prestigious orchestras around the globe.

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

will be performing at The Anvil on January 18. Tickets range from £14 to £40 with discounts available.

For more information or to book tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244, or visit [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk).

You should be so lucky, lucky, lucky...

**MUSIC:** A Kylie Minogue tribute act will be blasting through the queen of pop's greatest hits at The Academy in Basingstoke on Saturday.

Free entry for members, otherwise £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Doors open from 7pm, last entry at 10pm.

No smoke without...

**MUSIC:** For an evening of rock and blues classics head to The Swan in Sherborne St John on Saturday.

Smoke N' Fire, a five piece Basingstoke/Reading based band, will be revitalising hits from the last 40 years.

This free gig starts at 8pm and is expected to last until 11pm.

Feel the force

**MUSIC:** Force Ten will once again be playing at The Barley Mow in Oakley.

Paul, Dave, Bob and Andy will be performing covers from artists such as Queen, David Bowie, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Rolling Stones, Stereophonics, Foo Fighters, The Kinks and U2.

The free gig is on December 9.

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# Competition

## WIN a family ticket to Peter Pan!

Peter Pan flies in to The Anvil from Thursday 14 December to Sunday 7 January, so this Christmas take the second star to the right and fly far away to Neverland.

Follow Wendy, John and Michael Darling as they meet Tiger Lily and the Indians, the Lost Boys, and the impish Tinker Bell. Boo and hiss as the evil Captain Hook, his comic sidekick Smee, and his motley pirate crew take on the children – but beware of the crocodile that ticks!

Andrew Agnew, probably best known as the crime-busting, nature-loving PC Plum in the two times BAFTA Award-winning Balamory (CBeebies), plays Smee as well as the taking on the role of Director.

Gary Turner, probably best remembered for playing Carlos Diaz in Emmerdale, makes a welcome return as Captain Hook, a role he has played twice at The Anvil, in 2006 and 2011.

Star of the West End Jessica Punch

**Closing date:** Sunday, Dec 10

takes the title role of Peter Pan. Sarah Louise Day returns to The Anvil, this year as Mrs Darling. Sarah has starred in many pantomimes at The Anvil as well as choreographed the stunning dance routines that are such a huge part of the productions. Laura Harrison is Tiger Lily, Helen Petrovna is Tinker Bell, and Jenny Huxley-Golden is Wendy. Younger readers may recognise Jenny from M.I. High for CBBC.

Fast-moving comedy acrobats The Nitwits complete the cast as the madcap Pirate Crew causing hilarious havoc where ever they go.

Ticket prices for Peter Pan vary depending on performance (all tickets include a £2 booking fee). Concessions are available depending on performance. Family tickets, schools and group rates are available on selected

performances.

For more information, or to book your tickets, contact the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244 or visit the website [anvilarts.org.uk](http://anvilarts.org.uk)

### Win a family ticket!


We have two family tickets to give away and to be in with a chance of winning one just answer the following simple question:

**Q:** Why does the crocodile tick?



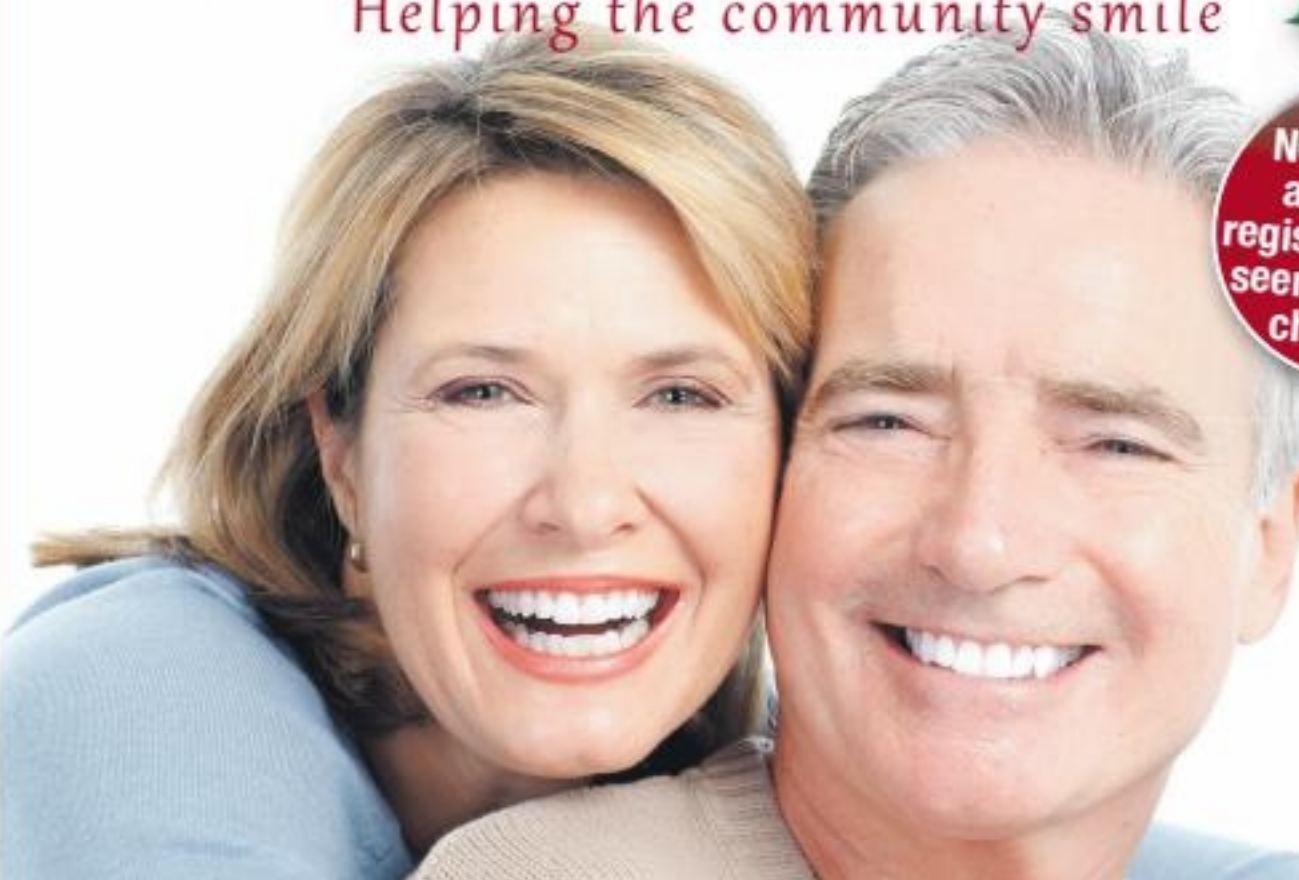
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Subaru BRZ 2.0i SE Lux Auto

## Give Subaru a try before you judge it

By Tony Yates

IF you talk to anyone about buying a Subaru – they will automatically think you are a ‘yobbo’ and cast you aside thinking the only possible reason you had for buying one in the first place – was because you wanted to annoy every other road user.

And I have to admit – in a way, they do have a point, as there is a young chap who lives just round the corner from me who annoys me very much – because, he thinks owning a Subaru WRX STi means he needs to have a stereo the size of ‘the planet Earth’ – and wheels that would not look out of place on a JCB.

Well I would like you to forget all about that now and instead focus on the new 2017 model Subaru BRZ – because actually this could just be the new sports car you have been yearning for.

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Subaru drivers have a reputation but this is a nimble little sports car

tally-opposed (Boxer), 4-cylinder, 4-stroke (DOHC 16V) petrol engine with 200ps @ 7000rpm and 205Nm of torque. 0-62mph is around 8.2sec, fuel consumption is a decent 39.8 mpg combined and a top speed of around 130mph.

Boxer engines have taken some

stick in the past – but, actually they fascinate me – and the Boxer engine in the BRZ is pretty cool, thanks to key features such as the engine’s square bore and stroke (86mm x 86mm), which all helps achieve a balance between mechanical efficiency, environmental performance, speed and power.

The engine is also fitted with the D-4S direct and port injection system. This selects the appropriate fuel injection rate to provide greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions – all wonderful stuff then.

### On the road

Nimble, frisky and if I am being honest, a little minx – and that’s just to get you started. Take the nimble little BRZ out on the road and you will feel how well it grips – again thanks to the BRZ being fitted with a Torsen limited slip rear differential for improved traction, allowing the more enthusiastic driver to make the most of the car’s rear-wheel drive layout.

Of course to get the best out of a sports car – you need to have a front-engined, rear-wheel drive layout – and the BRZ has this by the bucket load.

For 2017, the dampers have also been redesigned to reduce body roll, increase precision whilst cornering,

which has made a massive impact on ride comfort whilst still being a dynamically focused machine.

Subaru has also lowered the strut mounts to help reduce the centre of gravity which helps give the BRZ a much sleeker and lower profile on the road.

### Design & technology

Some of the additional standard equipment on the BRZ includes; Auto on headlights (LED front & LED rear) 6.2” multifunction colour touchscreen, satellite navigation, 17” alloy wheels, heated front seats, dual-zone automatic air-conditioning, cruise control, ABS, brake assist, front, side, curtain and knee airbags.

### To sum up

What can I say – the BRZ is a great drive and perfect for someone who wants a nimble little sports car.

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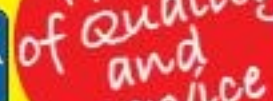
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# Bison sting Bees in easy win

By George Welch

AN easy 6-1 win kept Basingstoke Bison's hopes of National Cup progression alive with a convincing display against Bracknell Bees.

The Herd, now a point off the required second spot with three games to go, stormed to victory and made light work of the visitors at Planet Ice Arena.

Roman Malinik got the ball rolling - or puck sliding - with the ninth minute opener.

There wasn't much of a buzz about the away side and Dan Scott made it two for Bison shortly before the end of the first period.

Scott had the sting in his tale and added his second goal of the afternoon with a middle period strike, but not before Tomas Karpov got in on the action.

Hallam Wilson made it 5-0 with a

30th minute goal - all three second period goals came in a deadly three minutes.

Unlike Bees, Wilson was able to strike twice as he grabbed his brace in the final period.

Josh Martin snatched a consolation when he smashed home across Dan Weller-Evans in the 'Stoke goal, and that's the way it stayed in their only game of the weekend.

Head coach Doug Sheppard said: "I'm really happy with the weekend. We're playing good hockey, we're doing the right things and we're on a good run. We need to keep on going with the little things."

"I'm happy with how we responded to the challenge - we played a good all round game."

The Herd return to league action with a home match against Streatham and a trip to Milton Keynes Thunder the following day.



Hallam Wilson netted a brace to seal victory over Bracknell Bees

Picture: grantkingphotography.com

## Sport Bites

### Charging into action

**ICE HOCKEY:** Basingstoke Buffalo are back in action this weekend when they travel to Peterborough Phantoms in the NIHL South 2 (Wilkinson) division.

The Buffs enjoyed a weekend off last week and they face a Phantoms side bereft of confidence after failing to score in and losing their last two matches.

'Stoke are ninth in the table - their hosts on Sunday are fourth.

### Home record goes

**FOOTBALL:** Tadley Cavella's unbeaten home record was smashed as they lost 2-1 against promotion rivals Romsey Town on Saturday.

James Tennant grabbed Tadley's only goal but it failed to prevent defeat as Romsey leapfrogged their hosts in the Wessex League Division One.

They also lost ground at the top as leaders Andover New Street beat Whitechurch United 3-2 on Friday.

Saturday sees Tadley (4th) travel to AFC Stoneham (5th) and Whitechurch (12th) visit Laverstock & Ford (6th).

### No game for 'Stoke

**RUGBY:** It's two games without scoring for Basingstoke RFC who went down 56-0 at home to Teddington on Saturday.

The hammering followed their 40-0 defeat at Petersfield on November 11, extending their losing run to 10 matches.

Bottom of the table 'Stoke have this weekend off but are back in action when they visit third bottom Warlingham on December 9.

### Ladies out of cup

**FOOTBALL:** Basingstoke Town Ladies crashed out of the Hampshire County Challenge Cup with a sorry 4-0 home defeat to lower league Moneyfields Ladies.

Moneyfields will face Southampton Saints in the quarter finals in January.

Next up for Basingstoke is league match against mid-table Larkhall Athletic Ladies at Winklebury on December 10.

Winless 'Stoke are second bottom on two points from eight games.

### Have your say online



## Aiming to add a new page to history books

**HISTORY** boys Hartley Wintney were looking to write another page in the books last night (Wednesday) as the boys in orange faced another red letter day in the Buildbase FA Trophy.

The Row have already broken records by making it to the fourth qualifying round for the first time.

Slimbridge, Swindon Supermarine and Gosport Borough have all been cast aside but fellow Hampshire outfit Farnborough stand in the way of The Memorial Playing Fields side and a first found tie at home to Bromley.

Hartley's trip to Farnborough was rescheduled to last night (as we went to press) after Boro players got stuck in traffic when they were scheduled to play a replay against Banbury United earlier in the month.

The Yellows beat Banbury 3-2 after extra time on Saturday to set up the final qualifying round tie.

Should Hartley overcome Farnborough, they will face a home match against Vanarama National League side Bromley on December 16.

The Row, who slipped out of the Evo-Stik South East play-offs after a weekend off, return to league action with a trip to AFC Rushden & Diamonds on Saturday.

## Rose grinds out result after poor start

A POOR start to the final round of the first European Tour competition of the season scuppered Justin Rose's hopes of mounting a final day challenge at the UBS Hong Kong Open.

The north Hampshire golfer began the day five shots off the lead after a disappointing finish on Saturday saw him bogey the 16th and 17th holes.

The world number six, who narrowly missed out on the Race to Dubai title to Tommy Fleetwood the previous week, continued in similar vain on Sunday as he bogeyed both the first and third at Fanling.

Rose made gains on six, eight, 10 and 13 but his rocky start meant he carded two-over par for the final round to finish tied-10th on seven-under par.

The in-form 37-year-old, who won £28,658 (around £25,000) for his efforts, has finished 10th or higher in his last four competitions after his last tournament of 68, 69, 68 and 68.

He told Sky Sports: "It wasn't quite what I was looking for but the start kind of indicated that. I'm really pleased I kept my head up and ground it out."

"I've never seen the course play better. For such a short golf course, it had some teeth - which is good to see."

Aussie Wade Ormsby won on 11-under par to shoot to the top of the Race to Dubai rankings after the first competition.



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# Extra time goals cost 'Stoke as points dropped in two games

By George Welch

TWO last-gasp goals cost Basingstoke Town three points in a frustrating week for the Dragons.

Terry Brown's side conceded a 95th minute penalty to lose 2-1 at St Neots Town on Saturday before a 92nd minute equaliser meant more points slipped away in a 3-3 draw at home to Weymouth on Tuesday.

'Stoke looked to have responded well to the weekend's disappointment and were 2-0 up five minutes before half time against the Terras.

Sam Argent and Sam Smart grabbed the goals but Brandon Goodship halved the deficit on the stroke of half time with a close range effort.

The two-goal cushion was restored when striker Ben Wright buried the ball into the top corner from a free kick just before the hour.

However, a minute later, Josh Carmichael made amends for conceding the free-kick by firing home to narrow the scores again.

Wright went close with another set piece but Goodship completed the comeback for Weymouth with a volley two minutes into added time.

The draw - undoubtedly two dropped points - came just four days after three penalties, including another injury time winner, saw nine-man 'Stoke extend their wretched away form with a 2-1 defeat

at St Neots.

Wright and George Bennett received their marching orders in the final 13 minutes of a game 'Stoke should have got something from.

Brown criticised his players' self-control, launching an attack on their discipline as the cause for the ninth winless game on the road in a row.

The Dragons took a 24th minute lead through an Argent penalty but the advantage lasted just two minutes as David Bridges headed home at the far post.

Wright picked up a straight red card on 77 minutes following a clash between Bennett and St Neots skipper Luke Knight. Both were yellow carded.

The hosts benefitted from the extra man but Colm McAdden saved a Joe Meechan penalty as 'Stoke held on to the draw - for the time being.

Argent went close with five minutes to go but, three minutes later, Bennett picked up his second yellow card for a (slightly) early bath.

Town tried to hold out for a draw, but on 95 minutes, Johnny Herd scored from the spot for a very late winner for the Cambridgeshire side.

Basingstoke Town have a rest this weekend and are back in league action against Hereford on December 9 after a trip to Winchester in the Senior Cup on Tuesday next week.



Sam Argent scores from the spot against St Neots Town. Picture: Steve Gridley

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